

public education. She began her impressive career as a 6th grade teacher, then served as Executive Director of Elementary Education at Katy ISD, and as Superintendent of Schools of Tulosso-Midway ISD before assuming her position as superintendent of schools for NISD. I salute Dr. Rue for her exemplary career and extend best wishes upon her retirement and future endeavors. It is my privilege to represent Northwest ISD in the U.S. House of Representatives. Dr. Rue's positive impact and dedicated service to Northwest ISD will not soon be forgotten.

HONORING YAZOO CITY ALUMNAE
CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA
THETA SORORITY, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of women who has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to serve their community, Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has served the Yazoo County community and the State of Mississippi through informational meetings, social and civic engagement.

The Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter was granted their 30th chartering in the state of Mississippi on February 2, 1997. Francine Wallace and Edwina Fox, in 1995, had the idea to create a chapter in Yazoo and placed an article in the local newspaper. Other Delta's in the area quickly responded, desiring to continue the mission to which they had pledged themselves in their college years and together they worked with the state leadership, the southern Region Manager and the national Headquarters to achieve this objective. Not being swayed, it took several attempts to acquire the approvals to establish the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter. The Yazoo City Deltas traveled to the State Cluster to share their desire to focus on the high rate of teenage pregnancies in Yazoo County as it was the highest rate in the state of Mississippi. Relating their dedication to fighting this devastating trend, the Southern Region Manager, on their second attempt approved the chartering of the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter. On February 2, 1997 at the St. Stephen United Methodist Church 12 members, Mary Ann Brewer, Teresa Bonner, Diane Delaware, Zellee Delaware, Sandra Younger, Tamara Dodd, Edwina Gordon-Fox, Marilyn Hathorne, Gloria Elayne Owens, Francine Wallace, the late Juanita Scott-Washington and Mary Joshua Young stood and committed to carry out the public service mission of their beloved sisterhood throughout Yazoo County. Thus, this was the beginning of the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Yazoo City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for its dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

IN HONOR OF THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF PAYSON CONCRETE AND MATERIALS

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a business from my district, Payson Concrete and Materials, Incorporated.

Payson Concrete and Materials recently celebrated their 51st anniversary in business. George Randall opened the business in 1965. His brothers, Robert and Fred, joined him soon after and the family has been serving the communities of Payson, Pine and Tonto Basin ever since. Providers of concrete, asphalt and road paving services to eastern Arizona, the Randalls now employ 35 people, many of whom have been with the company for over 20 years. Their loyalty shows a commitment to excellence in every aspect of their company, from customer to employee. The Randall Brothers are also very active and generous in their community. Every year, they make major contributions to the local community. Robert Randall has also invested in the future of Pine. Mr. Randall, along with other local businessmen, has invested his own time and money into drilling a well with the capability of providing the citizens of Pine with a fresh source of water.

Payson Concrete and Materials is the type of family-owned and operated business that is all too rare in this day and age. It models the kind of community involvement that should be commonplace in our country. On behalf of the people of Arizona and the United States, we thank them for all that they do.

AMERICA'S HEALTH MEASURES
PROTECTION ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to protect the health regulations of the United States, and thereby the health of Americans, from the pernicious use of the Investor-State Dispute Settlement mechanism that exists in free trade agreements like NAFTA and the TPP.

Abuses of the ISDS provision have already had harmful effects on the health of our Canadian neighbors, as an ISDS lawsuit essentially forced the Canadian government to abandon its ban of the gasoline additive MMT, a known human neurotoxin.

My legislation, which amends the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountable Act of 2015, known as the TPA, makes it explicitly clear that protecting the health of Americans is a paramount trade negotiating objective of the United States. As it stands today, the TPA falls short of this goal.

During negotiations of the Trans Pacific Partnership, several nations demanded the ability to dismiss ISDS claims made against their tobacco control measures. This insistence was a tacit acknowledgment that companies use ISDS lawsuits to challenge reasonable state health regulations.

But why only single out tobacco control measures? What about safeguards for other public health measures like lower drug prices under Medicare, food safety regulations, clean air and water regulations, or the Toxic Substances Control Act recently passed by Congress? The fact that a last minute "tobacco carve-out" was inserted into the TPP is proof that the trade negotiating objectives currently in TPA are not explicit enough to protect the health of Americans.

The purpose of my legislation is to ensure that all health regulations in the United States are protected from unscrupulous abuses of trade arbitration mechanisms that fall outside of the United States justice system. My legislation instructs the United States Trade Representative to explicitly ensure that no trade agreement gives an investor group the power to hold the health of Americans hostage for monetary gain.

Trade is important to our society, but it should not come at the expense of the health of Americans. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS.
VALERIE BENDER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 9, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Mrs. Valerie Bender. Mrs. Bender passed away on April 29, 2016, at the age of 60 as she valiantly battled breast cancer for seven years. Known by all who met her as a selfless individual, Mrs. Bender led a prolific career as a reporter and was loved deeply by friends and family.

Mrs. Bender began her journalism career as a reporter in Florida. After having moved to Virginia and working there for a short time, her merits earned her the esteemed role of managing editor at the Wilmington News Journal. Mrs. Bender went on to work at the Fresno Bee where she served for 20 years. While at the Fresno Bee, she held a variety of different positions that included serving as Features Editor, Assistant Managing Director, Director of Community Publications, and Vice President of Custom Publications. In February 2014 Mrs. Bender was named President and Publisher of the Merced Sun-Star, a role that was certainly well earned and deserved.

Among her many activities and passions, Mrs. Bender was an advocate for breast cancer awareness and was deeply passionate about art. She made it a point to promote mammogram examinations among the young women that she met and went on to become part of Sistah's Just Surviving, a support group for cancer survivors. Mrs. Bender was viewed as a role model by members of the group because of her genuine and loving persona. Furthermore, Mrs. Bender was on the board of trustees at the Fresno Art Museum and showed constant support for young up-and-coming artists in the community. She was able to take her passion for art and effortlessly apply it to her career. During her time at the Fresno Bee, she became so well known for her "eye-popping" art designs that she was called away by other McClatchy newspapers for assistance in making their papers more appealing for up to several weeks at a time.